DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 266 224 UD 024 719

TITLE Persons of Spanish Origin in the United States: March 1985 (Advance Report).
INSTITUTION Bureau of the Census (DOC), Suitland, Md. Population Div.
PUB DATE Dec 85
NOTE 8p.; Tabular material contains small print.
AVAILABLE FROM Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402.
PUB TYPE Statistical Data (110)
JOURNAL CIT Current Population Reports; Series P-206 n403 1985

EDRS PRICE MF01/PC01 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS *Demography; *Educational Attainment; *Family Characteristics; Family Income; *Hispanic Americans; *Labor Force; Population Growth; *Poverty
IDENTIFIERS *Current Population Survey

ABSTRACT

This brief report presents preliminary data on the demographic, social, and economic characteristics of people of Spanish origin in the United States. The data were collected by the Census Bureau in a supplement to the March 1985 Current Population Survey (CPS), which used independent postcensal estimates on Hispanics. The Hispanic population has grown by 16% since 1980 as a result of high fertility and increased immigration. This is a proportionately larger increase than that for the total population. The Hispanic population has a higher median age in 1985 than it did in 1980 (up from 23.2 to 25) but still lower than the non-Hispanic population. Hispanics had a lower educational attainment level than non-Hispanics, with 14% having completed less than five years of school compared with only 2% of non-Hispanics of comparable age. In 1985, 72% of Hispanic families were married-couple families and 23% were families with single women heading the household. Family composition varied markedly among different Hispanic groups. There was no statistically significant difference between labor force participation of Hispanic and non-Hispanic populations, but the unemployment rate was substantially higher for Hispanics (11.3% versus 7.4%). The median income for Hispanic families in 1984 was $18,800 and for non-Hispanics $27,000. In 1984, the proportion of Hispanic families below the poverty level was more than double that of non-Hispanic families. (CG)

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Current Population Reports

**Population Characteristics**

U.S. Department of Commerce
BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

Series P-20, No. 403
Issued December 1985

ED266224

# Persons of Spanish Origin in the United States: March 1985 (Advance Report)

## INTRODUCTION

This report presents advance data on the demographic, social, and economic characteristics of persons of Spanish origin[1] in the United States. The data were collected by the Bureau of the Census in the supplement to the March 1985 Current Population Survey (CPS).[2] The characteristics presented in this report include age, sex, educational attainment, employment status, income, and poverty status. A more detailed report on the characteristics of the Spanish population is forthcoming.

This is the first of the CPS reports on persons of Spanish origin to present data on the Spanish population based entirely on postcensal independent estimates of Hispanics. These Spanish population estimates, derived independently of the CPS, were instituted as control totals for the CPS to eliminate annual fluctuations in the CPS Hispanic estimates and to establish a postcensal time series of Hispanic data comparable with the 1980 census information for Hispanics.

Independent postcensal estimates based on a preliminary methodology were first used as controls for the March 1982 CPS data on Hispanics. These data and an explanation of the preliminary methodology are presented in appendixes A and B, Current Population Reports, Series P-20, No. 396, *Persons of Spanish Origin in the United States: March 1982*. Subsequently, this methodology was refined and used to produce the March 1985 estimates shown in this report.

The March 1985 CPS estimates were developed using the 1980 census data on Hispanics by age and sex as a base. These 1980 figures were updated to 1985 by estimating (1) the number of Hispanic births, (2) the number of Hispanic deaths, (3) the number of immigrants of Hispanic origin, (4) the net movement of persons to and from Puerto Rico, (5) the change in the resident Hispanic personnel in the Armed Forces, and (6) the change in the Hispanic institutionalized population. The forthcoming final report, *Persons of Spanish Origin in the United States: March 1985*, will contain a detailed explanation of the refined methodology used to develop the March 1985 CPS independent estimates of the Hispanic population.

## POPULATION GROWTH AND COMPOSITION

In March 1985, there were 16.9 million persons of Spanish origin in the United States representing an increase of about 2.3 million persons (16 percent) over the 1980 census figure of 14.6 million. This sizeable increase was the result of high fertility and the resulting large natural increase (i.e., excess of births over deaths) and of substantial immigration to the United States from Mexico, Cuba[3], and other Spanish-speaking countries of Central and South America.

The increase in the Spanish population between 1980 and 1985 (16 percent) was proportionately larger than that for the overall population (3.3 percent) and consequently, persons of Spanish origin constituted a larger proportion of the total population in 1985 than they did in 1980 (7.2 percent and 6.4 percent, respectively). (See tables 1 and 2.)

In March 1985, the Spanish origin population of the United States comprised approximately:

- 10.3 million persons of Mexican origin
- 2.6 million persons of Puerto Rican origin
- 1.0 million persons of Cuban origin
- 1.7 million persons of Central or South American origin
- 1.4 million persons of other Spanish origin[4]

[1]The terms "Spanish" and "Hispanic" are used interchangeably in this report.

[2]Information from the March 1985 CPS shown in this report is based on the civilian noninstitutional population of the United States and members of the Armed Forces in the United States living off post or with their families on post, but excludes all other members of the Armed Forces.

[3]A substantial number of Cubans entered the United States immediately following the official date of the 1980 census (April 1), and hence were not included in the 1980 census count of Hispanics.

[4]Unless otherwise noted, persons reporting "Other Spanish" origin are those whose origins are from Spain, or they are Spanish origin persons identifying themselves generally as Spanish, Spanish-American, Hispano, Latino, etc.

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**Table 1. All Persons and Persons of Spanish Origin, by Type of Origin: March 1985 CPS and 1980 Census**

(For the United States. Numbers in thousands. 1980 census data based on sample tabulations)

| Origin | March 1985 CPS | 1980 census |
|---|---|---|
| Total population..... | 234,066 | 226,546 |
| Percent..... | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| Total Spanish origin..... | 7.2 | 6.4 |
| Mexican..... | 4.4 | 3.8 |
| Puerto Rican..... | 1.1 | 0.9 |
| Cuban..... | 0.4 | 0.4 |
| Central or South American.. | 0.7 | [1]1.4 |
| Other Spanish..... | 0.6 | |
| Not of Spanish origin[2]..... | 92.8 | 93.6 |

[1]In the 1980 census, the "Other Spanish" category included persons from Spain, the Spanish-speaking countries of Central or South America, and Hispanic persons who identified themselves generally as Latino, Spanish-American, Spanish, etc. In the CPS, the category "Central or South American" is listed as a separate origin.

[2]Includes persons who did not know or did not report on origin.

**Table 2. Persons of Spanish Origin, by Type of Origin: March 1985 CPS and 1980 Census**

(For the United States. Numbers in thousands. 1980 census data based on sample tabulations)

| Type of Spanish origin | March 1985 CPS | | 1980 census | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Number | Percent | Number | Percent |
| Total Spanish origin.. | 16,940 | 100.0 | 14,604 | 100.0 |
| Mexican..... | 10,269 | 60.6 | 8,679 | 59.4 |
| Puerto Rican..... | 2,562 | 15.1 | 2,005 | 13.7 |
| Cuban..... | 1,036 | 6.1 | 806 | 5.5 |
| Central or South American. | 1,722 | 10.2 | [1]3,114 | 21.3 |
| Other Spanish..... | 1,350 | 8.0 | | |

[1]In the 1980 census, the "Other Spanish" category included persons from Spain, the Spanish-speaking countries of Central or South America, and Hispanic persons who identified themselves generally as Latino, Spanish-American, Spanish, etc. In the CPS, the category "Central or South American" is listed as a separate origin.

## SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

On the average, both the Spanish and non-Spanish populations had higher median ages in 1985 than in 1980. The median age of Hispanics was 25.0 years in March 1985, up from 23.2 years in 1980; the medians for the non-Spanish population were 31.9 and 30.6, respectively. Even though both populations were older in 1985, the Spanish origin population remained a much younger population than the non-Spanish population, reflecting the higher fertility levels among Hispanics. (See tables 3 and 4.)

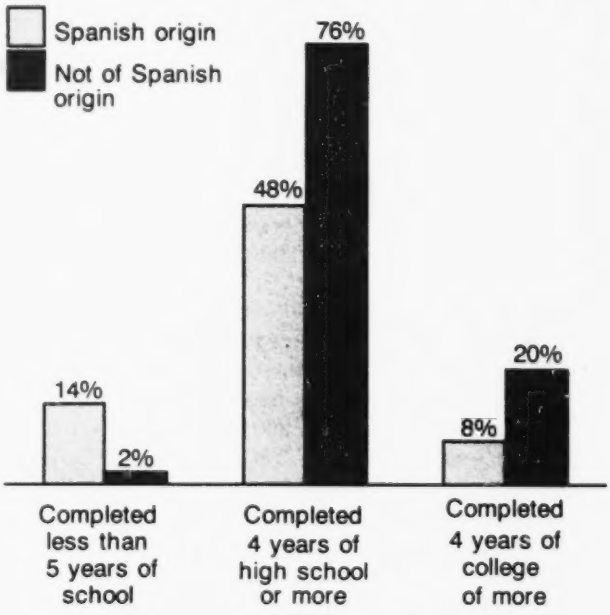
Except for the Cuban population, the median age for each of the Hispanic subgroups was significantly higher in 1985 than it was in 1980. In addition, the median age varied considerably among these subgroups in 1985: the Mexican and Puerto Rican groups had the youngest median ages, while the Cubans had the oldest median age (tables 4 and 5).

In March 1985, as in the past, Hispanics 25 years old and over had a lower educational attainment level than non-Hispanics. About 14 percent of Hispanics had completed less than 5 years of school, compared with only 2 percent for the comparable group of non-Hispanic persons. Furthermore, the proportion of high school graduates among Hispanics was only 48 percent, far below the 76 percent for non-Hispanic persons, and only 8 percent of Hispanics had completed 4 years of college or more as compared with 20 percent for non-Hispanics (table 5).

Educational differences also were evident among the Hispanic subgroups. For instance, only 42 percent of Mexican origin persons had completed high school while 63 percent of persons of Central or South American origin had achieved this educational level.

FIGURE 1

**Educational Attainment of Persons of Spanish Origin 25 Years Old and Over: March 1985**




There were 3.9 million families of Spanish origin in the United States in March 1985; 72 percent of these were married-couple families and 23 percent were families maintained by women with no husbands present.

Family composition varied markedly among the Hispanic groups. For example, about 16 percent of Cuban origin families were maintained by women with no husband present; in contrast, the corresponding pro-

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**Table 3. Persons of Spanish Origin, by Sex and Age: March 1985 CPS and 1980 Census**

(For the United States. 1980 census data based on sample tabulations)

| Age | March 1985 CPS | | | 1980 census | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Both sexes | Male | Female | Both sexes | Male | Female |
| Total.....(thousands).. | 16,940 | 8,441 | 8,499 | 14,604 | 7,274 | 7,329 |
| Percent..... | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| Under 5 years..... | 10.7 | 10.9 | 10.4 | 11.3 | 11.6 | 11.0 |
| 5 to 9 years..... | 10.1 | 10.4 | 9.8 | 10.5 | 10.8 | 10.2 |
| 10 to 14 years..... | 9.7 | 9.9 | 9.5 | 10.2 | 10.4 | 10.0 |
| 15 to 19 years..... | 9.1 | 9.4 | 9.0 | 11.0 | 11.4 | 10.7 |
| 20 to 24 years..... | 10.5 | 11.4 | 9.6 | 10.8 | 11.2 | 10.5 |
| 25 to 29 years..... | 10.0 | 9.7 | 10.3 | 9.5 | 9.6 | 9.3 |
| 30 to 34 years..... | 8.2 | 8.5 | 8.0 | 7.9 | 7.9 | 8.0 |
| 35 to 44 years..... | 12.6 | 12.3 | 12.9 | 10.8 | 10.5 | 11.1 |
| 45 to 54 years..... | 8.1 | 7.9 | 8.3 | 8.1 | 7.8 | 8.5 |
| 55 to 64 years..... | 6.1 | 5.6 | 6.7 | 5.2 | 4.9 | 5.6 |
| 65 years and over..... | 4.8 | 4.2 | 5.5 | 4.6 | 4.0 | 5.2 |
| 18 years and over..... | 64.0 | 63.0 | 65.0 | 61.4 | 60.4 | 62.4 |
| 21 years and over..... | 58.3 | 57.4 | 59.2 | 54.7 | 53.4 | 56.0 |
| Median age.....(years).. | 25.0 | 24.2 | 25.8 | 23.2 | 22.6 | 23.9 |

**Table 4. Median Age of All Persons and Persons of Spanish Origin, by Type of Origin: March 1985 CPS and 1980 Census**

(For the United States. 1980 census data based on sample tabulations)

| Origin | March 1985 CPS | 1980 census |
|---|---|---|
| Total population..... | 31.4 | 30.0 |
| Total Spanish origin..... | 25.0 | 23.2 |
| Mexican..... | 23.3 | 21.8 |
| Puerto Rican..,..... | 24.3 | 22.3 |
| Cuban..... | 39.1 | 37.5 |
| Other Spanish[1]..... | 28.0 | 25.6 |
| Not of Spanish origin[2]..... | 31.9 | 30.6 |

[1]Includes Central and South American and other Spanish origin.

[2]Includes persons who did not know or did not report on origin.

portion for Puerto Rican families was substantially higher at 44 percent (table 5).

In March 1985, approximately 7.4 million Spanish origin persons 16 years old and over were in the Nation's civilian labor force. There was no statistically significant difference between the labor force participation rates of the Hispanic and non-Hispanic populations, however, the unemployment rate was substantially higher for Hispanics than for non-Hispanics (11.3 percent and 7.4 percent, respectively). And there is some evidence that the unemployment rate of 14.3 percent for Puerto Ricans was the highest among the Spanish origin groups (table 6).

The money income level of Hispanic families lagged behind that for non-Hispanics: the median income in 1984 of Hispanic families was $18,800, compared with $27,000 for non-Hispanic families. Differences in the income level were particularly apparent among Hispanic families. For instance, the median income in 1984 of Puerto Rican families was about $12,400; in contrast, the median income was about $22,600 for Cuban families. Differences in educational levels, number of workers in the family, and family composition account for part of the differences noted among the Hispanic subgroups (table 6).

In 1984, the proportion of Hispanic families below the poverty level was more than double that of non-Hispanic families (25 percent versus 11 percent). Puerto Rican families had the highest poverty rate

FIGURE 2

**Percent of All Families and Families of Spanish Origin Below the Poverty Level in 1984: March 1985**

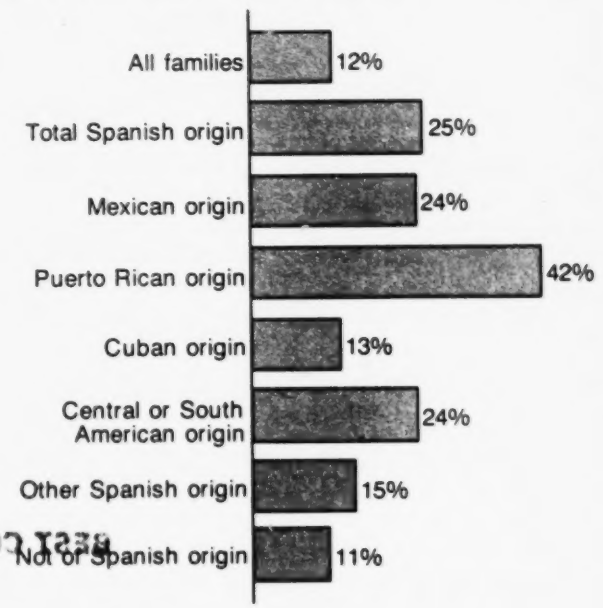


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**Table 5. Selected Social Characteristics of All Persons and Persons of Spanish Origin, by Type of Origin: March 1985**

(For the United States)

| Characteristic | Total population | Spanish origin | | | | | | Not of Spanish origin[1] |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Total | Mexican | Puerto Rican | Cuban | Central or South American | Other Spanish | |
| AGE | | | | | | | | |
| Total.....(thousands).. | 234,066 | 16,940 | 10,269 | 2,562 | 1,036 | 1,722 | 1,350 | 217,126 |
| Percent..... | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| Under 5 years..... | 7.7 | 10.7 | 11.7 | 10.6 | 5.4 | 9.5 | 8.3 | 7.4 |
| 5 to 17 years..... | 19.0 | 25.3 | 27.4 | 26.5 | 14.4 | 21.6 | 19.4 | 18.6 |
| 18 to 64 years..... | 61.8 | 59.2 | 56.8 | 60.3 | 65.7 | 65.5 | 63.7 | 61.9 |
| 65 years and over..... | 11.5 | 4.8 | 4.2 | 2.7 | 14.5 | 3.3 | 8.5 | 12.0 |
| Median age.....(years).. | 31.4 | 25.0 | 23.3 | 24.3 | 39.1 | 27.1 | 29.6 | 31.9 |
| SEX | | | | | | | | |
| Percent..... | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| Male..... | 48.5 | 49.8 | 51.1 | 46.8 | 48.7 | 47.9 | 49.1 | 48.4 |
| Female..... | 51.5 | 50.2 | 48.9 | 53.2 | 51.3 | 52.1 | 50.9 | 51.6 |
| MARITAL STATUS | | | | | | | | |
| Total, 15 years and over(thous.).. | 182,316 | 11,776 | 6,814 | 1,774 | 867 | 1,280 | 1,040 | 170,540 |
| Percent..... | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| Single (never married)..... | 26.2 | 31.2 | 31.0 | 37.5 | 19.7 | 32.7 | 29.9 | 25.8 |
| Married..... | 59.2 | 57.9 | 59.6 | 50.1 | 63.1 | 58.4 | 55.2 | 59.3 |
| Widowed..... | 7.4 | 4.7 | 4.0 | 4.2 | 8.8 | 3.8 | 7.5 | 7.6 |
| Divorced..... | 7.2 | 6.2 | 5.4 | 8.2 | 8.4 | 5.1 | 7.4 | 7.2 |
| EDUCATION | | | | | | | | |
| Total, 25 years and over(thous.).. | 143,524 | 8,455 | 4,755 | 1,241 | 721 | 951 | 787 | 135,070 |
| Percent completed-- | | | | | | | | |
| Less than 5 years of school..... | 2.7 | 13.5 | 17.1 | 12.8 | 7.4 | 7.2 | 6.0 | 2.0 |
| 4 years of high school or more..... | 73.9 | 47.9 | 41.9 | 46.3 | 51.1 | 62.6 | 66.1 | 75.5 |
| 4 years of college or more..... | 19.4 | 8.5 | 5.5 | 7.0 | 13.7 | 15.5 | 15.3 | 20.1 |
| Median school years completed..... | 12.6 | 11.5 | 10.2 | 11.2 | 12.0 | 12.4 | 12.4 | 12.7 |
| TYPE OF FAMILY | | | | | | | | |
| All families.....(thous.).. | 62,706 | 3,939 | 2,251 | 621 | 318 | 406 | 343 | 58,767 |
| Percent..... | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| Married-couple families..... | 80.3 | 71.7 | 75.7 | 52.0 | 78.3 | 73.4 | 72.9 | 80.9 |
| Female householder, no husband present.. | 16.2 | 23.0 | 18.6 | 44.0 | 16.0 | 21.9 | 21.3 | 15.7 |
| Male householder, no wife present..... | 3.6 | 5.3 | 5.8 | 4.0 | 5.7 | 4.7 | 5.5 | 3.4 |
| SIZE OF FAMILY | | | | | | | | |
| Percent..... | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| Two persons..... | 40.4 | 24.4 | 20.9 | 24.4 | 43.1 | 21.9 | 33.2 | 41.5 |
| Three persons..... | 23.6 | 24.1 | 22.0 | 27.1 | 25.2 | 29.6 | 24.5 | 23.6 |
| Four persons..... | 21.1 | 23.7 | 22.6 | 28.8 | 18.6 | 24.9 | 25.4 | 21.0 |
| Five persons..... | 9.4 | 14.0 | 15.7 | 12.7 | 9.1 | 13.8 | 9.9 | 9.1 |
| Six persons..... | 3.5 | 7.0 | 9.0 | 4.5 | 2.8 | 5.9 | 3.5 | 3.2 |
| Seven or more persons..... | 2.0 | 6.7 | 9.8 | 2.5 | 0.9 | 4.2 | 2.9 | 1.6 |
| Mean number of persons..... | 3.23 | 3.88 | 4.15 | 3.62 | 3.13 | 3.74 | 3.41 | 3.18 |

[1]Includes persons who did not know or did not report on origin.

(42 percent) among the Spanish origin groups. Poverty determination is based on money income and does not include the value of noncash benefits such as food stamps, Medicaid, and public housing (table 6).

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## Table 6. Selected Economic Characteristics of All Persons and Persons of Spanish Origin, by Type of Origin: March 1985

(For the United States)

| Characteristic | Total population | Spanish origin | | | | | | Not of Spanish origin[1] |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Total | Mexican | Puerto Rican | Cuban | Central or South American | Other Spanish | |
| LABOR FORCE STATUS | | | | | | | | |
| Total, 16 years and over.....(thous.).. | 178,587 | 11,466 | 6,625 | 1,721 | 851 | 1,248 | 1,021 | 167,121 |
| In civilian labor force..... | 114,256 | 7,362 | 4,427 | 882 | 557 | 853 | 643 | 106,894 |
| Percent in civilian labor force..... | 64.0 | 64.2 | 66.8 | 51.2 | 65.5 | 68.3 | 63.0 | 64.0 |
| Percent unemployed..... | 7.6 | 11.3 | 11.9 | 14.3 | 6.8 | 11.0 | 7.1 | 7.4 |
| Males, 16 years and over.....(thous.).. | 85,132 | 5,643 | 3,402 | 754 | 413 | 587 | 486 | 79,489 |
| In civilian labor force..... | 63,365 | 4,427 | 2,773 | 504 | 308 | 483 | 358 | 58,938 |
| Percent in civilian labor force..... | 74.4 | 78.5 | 81.5 | 66.9 | 74.6 | 82.3 | 73.7 | 74.1 |
| Percent unemployed..... | 7.8 | 11.8 | 12.5 | 15.0 | 6.9 | 9.3 | 8.9 | 7.5 |
| Females, 16 years and over.....(thous.).. | 93,455 | 5,823 | 3,223 | 967 | 438 | 661 | 534 | 87,632 |
| In civilian labor force..... | 50,891 | 2,935 | 1,654 | 378 | 249 | 370 | 284 | 47,956 |
| Percent in civilian labor force..... | 54.5 | 50.4 | 51.3 | 39.0 | 56.9 | 55.9 | 53.2 | 54.7 |
| Percent unemployed..... | 7.4 | 10.5 | 10.9 | 13.3 | 6.6 | 13.2 | 4.9 | 7.2 |
| OCCUPATION | | | | | | | | |
| Employed males, 16 years and over.....(thous.).. | 58,430 | 3,906 | 2,426 | 429 | 287 | 438 | 326 | 54,524 |
| Percent..... | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| Managerial and professional specialty..... | 25.2 | 11.6 | 8.6 | 12.5 | 19.1 | 15.7 | 20.5 | 26.2 |
| Technical, sales, and administrative support. | 19.8 | 14.6 | 12.3 | 21.6 | 16.9 | 16.9 | 18.3 | 20.2 |
| Service occupations..... | 9.9 | 14.9 | 14.1 | 19.9 | 9.7 | 18.7 | 13.7 | 9.5 |
| Farming, forestry, and fishing..... | 4.3 | 6.0 | 8.7 | 0.8 | 0.6 | 2.0 | 2.6 | 4.2 |
| Precision production, craft, and repair..... | 20.3 | 23.3 | 24.8 | 17.4 | 27.8 | 19.9 | 20.3 | 20.1 |
| Operators, fabricators, and laborers..... | 20.5 | 29.6 | 31.6 | 27.8 | 25.9 | 26.9 | 24.6 | 19.8 |
| Employed females, 16 years and over.....(thous.).. | 47,120 | 2,625 | 1,474 | 327 | 233 | 321 | 270 | 44,495 |
| Percent..... | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| Managerial and professional specialty..... | 23.7 | 12.6 | 11.2 | 14.3 | 14.1 | 13.4 | 15.9 | 24.4 |
| Technical, sales, and administrative support. | 45.7 | 42.7 | 43.5 | 42.1 | 42.4 | 36.4 | 46.9 | 45.9 |
| Service occupations..... | 18.1 | 22.3 | 22.4 | 22.8 | 16.0 | 26.0 | 22.0 | 17.9 |
| Farming, forestry, and fishing..... | 1.0 | 1.3 | 2.1 | 0.6 | - | 0.6 | - | 1.0 |
| Precision production, craft, and repair..... | 2.3 | 3.5 | 3.8 | 2.2 | 5.1 | 2.8 | 2.7 | 2.3 |
| Operators, fabricators, and laborers..... | 9.1 | 17.7 | 17.1 | 17.9 | 22.5 | 20.9 | 12.5 | 8.6 |
| FAMILY INCOME IN 1984 | | | | | | | | |
| Median income.....(dollars).. | 26,433 | 18,833 | 19,184 | 12,371 | 22,587 | 19,785 | 23,470 | 26,951 |
| BELOW POVERTY LEVEL IN 1984 | | | | | | | | |
| Families.....(thous.).. | 7,277 | 991 | 541 | 260 | 41 | 96 | 52 | 6,286 |
| Percent below poverty level[2]..... | 11.6 | 25.2 | 24.1 | 41.9 | 12.9 | 23.6 | 15.2 | 10.7 |
| Family householder-- | | | | | | | | |
| 65 years old and over: | | | | | | | | |
| Number..... | 713 | 58 | 33 | 3 | 14 | 3 | 6 | 655 |
| Percent..... | 7.3 | 19.4 | 19.2 | (B) | (B) | (B) | (B) | 6.9 |
| Not a high school graduate:[3] | | | | | | | | |
| Number..... | 3,229 | 633 | 367 | 163 | 25 | 54 | 24 | 2,596 |
| Percent..... | 20.6 | 32.5 | 29.8 | 52.6 | 17.0 | 36.2 | 22.0 | 18.9 |
| Female, husband absent: | | | | | | | | |
| Number..... | 3,498 | 483 | 183 | 203 | 22 | 42 | 33 | 3,014 |
| Percent..... | 34.5 | 53.4 | 43.8 | 74.4 | (B) | 47.2 | (B) | 32.7 |
| Unrelated Individuals: | | | | | | | | |
| Number..... | 6,609 | 545 | 297 | 138 | 29 | 49 | 31 | 6,065 |
| Percent..... | 21.8 | 36.8 | 39.0 | 49.1 | 31.2 | 29.2 | 17.4 | 21.1 |

B Base less than 75,000.
- Represents zero or rounds to zero.

[1] Includes persons who did not know or did not report on origin.
[2] Percent of all families of specified origin.
[3] Householder 25 years old and over.

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## COMPARABILITY BETWEEN THE CPS AND THE 1980 CENSUS

The 1980 census data on the characteristics of persons of Spanish origin may differ somewhat with those from the Current Population Survey (CPS) because of differences in the collecting and processing procedures of these two statistical collecting systems. For example, the 1980 census used self-enumeration, whereas the CPS is conducted by direct interview, much of it by telephone. While a general ethnic question is used to collect information on the Spanish origin population in the CPS, a direct question on Spanish origin was used in the 1980 census. Also, the CPS Spanish origin estimates represent the civilian noninstitutional population, whereas Spanish origin data from the 1980 census represent the total resident population.

## RELIABILITY OF ESTIMATES

In addition, since the CPS estimates are based on a sample, they may differ somewhat from the figures that would have been obtained if a complete census had been taken using the same schedules, instructions, and enumerators. There are two types of errors possible in an estimate based on a sample survey: sampling and nonsampling. The standard errors primarily indicate the magnitude of the sampling error. They also partially measure the effect of some nonsampling errors in response and enumeration, but do not measure any systematic biases in the data. The full extent of nonsampling error is unknown. Standard errors are primarily measures of sampling variability, that is, of the variation that occurred by chance because a sample rather than the entire population was surveyed. The sample estimate and its estimated standard error enable one to construct confidence intervals, or ranges that would include the average result of all possible samples with a known probability. Additional data and more detailed information on the reliability of the estimates will be included in the forthcoming final Current Population Report, *Persons of Spanish Origin in the United States: March 1985*.

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# current population reports

## from the BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

In addition to the findings of the Census of Population, conducted every 10 years, the Bureau of the Census publishes continuing and up-to-date statistics on population counts, characteristics, and other special studies of the American people. Data are issued in the seven separate series of reports described here and are released under the general title, Current Population Reports.

**P-20 Population Characteristics.** Current national and, in some cases, regional data on geographic residence and mobility, fertility, educational attainment, school enrollment, marital status, numbers and characteristics of households and families, and persons of Spanish origin. Approximately 20 reports each year.

**P-23 Special Studies.** Reports on methods, concepts, or specialized data. Included in the series are periodic reports on the Black population, metropolitan-nonmetropolitan population, American youth, the older population, and other topics.

**P-27 Farm Population.** Data on the size and selected characteristics of the farm population of the United States. Issued jointly with the Bureau of the Census and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. One report each year.

**P-60 Consumer Income.** Information on the proportions of families, individuals, and households at various income levels. Data are also presented on the relationship of income to age, sex, race, family size, education, occupation, work experience, and other characteristics. A special annual report provides detailed information on low-income families and individuals. Four to five reports each year.

**P-25 Population Estimates and Projections.** Includes monthly estimates of the total population of the United States; annual mid-year estimates of the population of States by broad age groups; and of the United States by age, race, and sex; annual estimates of the components of population change. Annual estimates of the population of metropolitan areas and their component counties will be released, as well as projections for the United States and individual States. Generally, about 23 series P-25 reports are published each year.

**P-26 Local Population Estimates.** Annual county population estimates, most of which are produced under the auspices of the Federal-State Cooperative Program for Local Population Estimates, are published in the P-26 reports individually for each State (50 reports). Also published individually in the P-26 series, on a biennial basis, are the subcounty revenue sharing estimates for each State (50 reports). These estimates were published previously in the P-25 series. In addition, annual estimates of the population of Puerto Rico municipios will also be published. There will be approximately 100 reports published in this series.

**P-28 Special Censuses.** Presents results of population censuses taken at the request and expense of city or other local governments. Biannual summaries showing the total population figures for all the censuses conducted during the particular period as well as individual reports issued for areas of 50,000 or more, showing the population by age, sex, and race, are available separately. See "How to Order Reports."

### HOW TO ORDER REPORTS

**Current Population Reports** are sold as two separate subscriptions. Series P-20, 23, 27, and 60 (Population Characteristics, Special Studies, Farm Population, and Consumer Income) cost $71 a year ($88.75 for foreign mailing). The second subscription, Series P-25 (Population Estimates and Projections) is priced at $25 a year ($31.25 for foreign mailing). Release of the P-26 Series and single copies of the individual Series P-28, Special Censuses, must be ordered separately through the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. Prices vary.

For information concerning subscription pricing on Current Population Reports, write to Data User Services Division, Customer Services (Publications), Bureau of the Census, Washington, D.C. 20233.

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